

(2) Assessing the effectiveness of the procedures of the Department of Veterans Affairs for working with persons or entities having custody of unclaimed remains to facilitate interment of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration.

(3) Assessing State and local laws that affect the ability of the Secretary to inter unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration.

(4) Developing recommendations for such legislative or administrative action as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) **METHODOLOGY.**—

(1) **NUMBER OF UNCLAIMED REMAINS.**—In estimating the number of unclaimed remains of veterans under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary may review such subset of applicable entities as the Secretary considers appropriate, including a subset of funeral homes and coroner offices that possess unclaimed veterans remains.

(2) **ASSESSMENT OF STATE AND LOCAL LAWS.**—In assessing State and local laws under subsection (b)(3), the Secretary may assess such sample of applicable State and local laws as the Secretary considers appropriate in lieu of reviewing all applicable State and local laws.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section shall take effect on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

## TITLE VII—OTHER MATTERS

### SEC. 701. HONORING AS VETERANS CERTAIN PERSONS WHO PERFORMED SERVICE IN THE RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

Any person who is entitled under chapter 1223 of title 10, United States Code, to retired pay for nonregular service or, but for age, would be entitled under such chapter to retired pay for nonregular service shall be honored as a veteran but shall not be entitled to any benefit by reason of this honor.

### SEC. 702. REPORT ON LAOTIAN MILITARY SUPPORT OF ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES DURING VIETNAM WAR.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the effective date specified in subsection (c), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and such agencies and individuals as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs considers appropriate, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on—

(1) the extent to which Laotian military forces provided combat support to the Armed Forces of the United States between February 28, 1961, and May 15, 1975;

(2) whether the current classification by the Civilian/Military Service Review Board of the Department of Defense of service by individuals of Hmong ethnicity is appropriate; and

(3) such recommendations as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may have for legislative action.

(b) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section shall take effect on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

### SEC. 703. RESTORATION OF PRIOR REPORTING FEE MULTIPLIERS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—During the 10-year period beginning on September 26, 2015, the second sentence of subsection (c) of section 3684 of

title 38, United States Code, shall be applied—

(1) by substituting “\$8” for “\$12”; and

(2) by substituting “\$12” for “\$15”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 406 of the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-175; 38 U.S.C. 3684 note), as amended by section 410 of the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-58), is hereby repealed.

The title amendment was agreed to, as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the furnishing of health care to veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, to improve the processing by the Department of claims for disability compensation, and for other purposes.”.

## SPACE ACT OF 2015

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2262 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

An bill (H.R. 2262) to facilitate a pro-growth environment for the developing commercial space industry by encouraging private sector investment and creating more stable and predictable regulatory conditions, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Cruz substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2805) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today’s RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 2262), as amended, was passed.

## PRO BONO WORK TO EMPOWER AND REPRESENT ACT OF 2015

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2280, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2280) to promote pro bono legal services as a critical way in which to empower survivors of domestic violence.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be

read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2280) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2280

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Pro bono Work to Empower and Represent Act of 2015” or “POWER Act”.

## SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Extremely high rates of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking exist at the local, State, and national levels and such violence or behavior harms the most vulnerable members of our society.

(2) According to a study commissioned by the Department of Justice, nearly 25 percent of women suffer from domestic violence during their lifetime.

(3) Proactive efforts should be made available in all forums to provide pro bono legal services and eliminate the violence that destroys lives and shatters families.

(4) A variety of factors cause domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and a variety of solutions at the local, State, and national level are necessary to combat such violence or behavior.

(5) According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, which conducted a census including almost 1,700 assistance programs, over the course of 1 day in September 2014, more than 10,000 requests for services, including legal representation, were not met.

(6) Pro bono assistance can help fill this need by providing not only legal representation, but also access to emergency shelter, transportation, and childcare.

(7) Research and studies have demonstrated that the provision of legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking reduces the probability of such violence or behavior reoccurring in the future and can help survivors move forward.

(8) Legal representation increases the possibility of successfully obtaining a protective order against an attacker, preventing further mental and physical injury to a victim and his or her family, demonstrated by a study that found that 83 percent of victims represented by an attorney were able to obtain a protective order compared to 32 percent of victims without an attorney.

(9) The American Bar Association Model Rules include commentary that “every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, has a responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay, and personal involvement in the problems of the disadvantaged can be one of the most rewarding experiences in the life of a lawyer”.

(10) As representatives of the Department of Justice, the duty of United States Attorneys is to present “equal and impartial justice to all its citizens,” which should include, especially, survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking who might not otherwise know how to seek advice and protection.

(11) As Federal lawyers who have knowledge of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in their localities, United States Attorneys should encourage lawyers to provide pro bono resources in an effort to help victims of such

violence or behavior to escape the cycle of abuse.

(12) A dedicated army of pro bono attorneys focused on this mission will inspire others to devote efforts to this cause and will raise awareness of the scourge of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking throughout the country.

(13) Communities, by providing awareness of pro bono legal services and assistance to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, will empower those survivors to move forward with their lives.

#### SEC. 3. U.S. ATTORNEYS TO PROMOTE EMPOWERMENT EVENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less often than once each year thereafter, each United States Attorney, or his or her designee, for each judicial district shall lead not less than 1 public event, in partnership with a State, local, tribal, or territorial domestic violence service provider or coalition and a State or local volunteer lawyer project, promoting pro bono legal services as a critical way in which to empower survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and engage citizens in assisting those survivors.

(b) DISTRICTS CONTAINING INDIAN TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—During each 3-year period, a United States Attorney, or his or her designee, for a judicial district that contains an Indian tribe or tribal organization (as those terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)) shall lead not less than 1 public event promoting pro bono legal services under subsection (a) in partnership with an Indian tribe or tribal organization with the intent of increasing the provision of pro bono legal services for Indian or Alaska Native victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—Each United States Attorney shall—

(1) have discretion on the design, organization, and implementation of the public events required under subsection (a); and

(2) in conducting a public event under subsection (a), seek to maximize the local impact of the event and the provision of access to high-quality pro bono legal services by survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

#### SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REPORT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Not later than October 30 of each year, each United States Attorney shall submit to the Attorney General a report detailing each public event conducted under section 3 during the previous fiscal year.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1 of each year, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a compilation and summary of each report received under subsection (a) for the previous fiscal year.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—Each comprehensive report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include an analysis of how each public event meets the goals set forth in this Act, as well as suggestions on how to improve future public events.

#### SEC. 5. FUNDING.

The Department of Justice shall use existing funds to carry out the requirements of this Act.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Foreign Service: PN643, PN800, and PN877; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

#### NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

##### FOREIGN SERVICE

PN643 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (101) beginning Jennifer Ann Amos, and ending Holly Rothe Wielkoszewski, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 8, 2015.

PN800 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (127) beginning Kreshnik Alikaj, and ending Brett David Ziskie, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2015.

PN877-1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (404) beginning Jason Douglas Kalbfleisch, and ending Stuart MacKenzie Hatcher, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 21, 2015.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate passed several lists for more than 600 career promotions in the Foreign Service. I spoke earlier this week about these promotions, and I am pleased that Senator GRASSLEY has allowed these lists to pass this evening.

Regardless of which party controlled the Senate, Foreign Service promotion lists have moved without political interference. That is until recently. In August, Senator GRASSLEY decided to block the promotions of more than 20 career officials in order to pursue the same agenda we saw the Republicans go after with the Benghazi committee.

I have spoken with Senator GRASSLEY about this issue. Holding back the promotions of career Foreign Service officers is not the way the Senate should be operating. The 20 officials that are still being blocked include officers stationed in Cambodia, Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia, and other nations.

Although I am pleased about the Senate passing more than 600 promotions this evening, the senior Senator from Iowa should drop his holds on career diplomats and give these 20 officials the promotions they have earned.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 5 p.m.

on Monday, November 16, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 141; that there be 30 minutes of debate on the nomination; that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that following disposition of the nomination, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

#### COMMITTEE-REPORTED SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that not withstanding the passage of H.R. 2029, the committee-reported substitute be withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SUPPORTING ISRAEL AND CONDEMNING PALESTINIAN TERROR ATTACKS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 292, S. Res. 302.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 302) expressing the sense of the Senate in support of Israel and in condemnation of Palestinian terror attacks.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Blumenthal amendment to the resolution be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the Blumenthal amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2807) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To urge the international community to condemn the Palestinian terror attacks)

On page 5, line 1, strike "the President and".

The resolution (S. Res. 302), as amended, was agreed to.